

**OHIO ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO  
THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS  
MEETING MINUTES**

February 27, 2017

The Ohio Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Committee) convened via teleconference to discuss civil rights concerns in the State. The meeting was open to the public and took place from 4:00pm – 5:14pm EST.

**Advisory Committee Members:**

**Present:**

1. Citrino, Diane (Chair)
2. Forte, David (Vice Chair)
3. Tryon, David
4. Thrower, Edith
5. Hernandez, Emerald
6. Strang, Lee
7. Strasser, Mark
8. Salem, Robert
9. Gerber, Scott
10. Chandra, Subodh

**Absent:**

1. Burstion-Donbraye, Deborah
2. Bledsoe, Cassandra
3. Crosby, Catherine
4. Davies, Sharon
5. McDermott, Kevin

**Commission Staff present:**

- Wojnaroski, Melissa (DFO)
- Barreras, David
- Davidson, Breanna (USCCR intern)

**Members of the Public Present:**

- Dallas, Jessica (Social Worker)

**Meeting Notes/Decisions Made:**

**Committee Officers:**

- The Chair called for nominations for Committee members to serve as Vice-Chair during the Committee's January 19, 2017 meeting. The following nominations were received in advance of this meeting:
  - David Forte
  - Cassandra Bledsoe
- Robert Salem moved to elect both nominees to serve as co-Vice Chairs; Emerald Hernandez seconded the motion.
  - The Chair called for additional nominations. No additional nominations were received.
  - The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 9 yes and one abstention:
    - Chandra, Subodh – yes
    - Forte, David – yes
    - Gerber, Scott – abstain
    - Hernandez, Emerald – yes
    - Salem, Robert – yes

- Strang, Lee – yes
- Strasser, Mark – yes
- Thrower, Edith – yes
- Tryon, David – yes
- Citrino, Diane (Chair) – yes

### **Discussion:**

The Committee discussed completion of the draft report on Human Trafficking in Ohio (attached).

- Scott Gerber moved to add a recommendation (Recommendation IV on p. 31):
  - The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights should recommend that the U.S. Congress and appropriate federal agencies allocate sufficient resources to carry into effect Recommendations I-III, listed on pp. 30-31
  - Diane Citrino seconded the motion
  - Emerald Hernandez offered a friendly amendment to recommend more broadly that “Congress increase its funding in combating human trafficking”
  - Scott Gerber accepted the friendly amendment
  - The motion passed by a roll call vote with a count of 6 yes and 4 no:
    - Chandra, Subodh – yes
    - Forte, David – no
    - Gerber, Scott – yes
    - Hernandez, Emerald – yes
    - Salem, Robert – yes
    - Strang, Lee – no
    - Strasser, Mark – yes
    - Thrower, Edith – no
    - Tryon, David – no
    - Citrino, Diane (Chair) – yes
- David Tryon moved to approve the report for publication with the following additional amendments:
  - Inclusion of any technical clarifications, updates, or corrections received by panelists regarding their own testimony;
  - Inclusion of any required amendments resulting from the agency’s legal sufficiency review.
  - Scott Gerber seconded the motion. The motion passed by a roll call vote with a count of 9 yes and one abstention:
    - Chandra, Subodh – yes
    - Forte, David – yes
    - Gerber, Scott – yes
    - Hernandez, Emerald – yes
    - Salem, Robert – yes
    - Strang, Lee – yes
    - Strasser, Mark – yes
    - Thrower, Edith – abstain
    - Tryon, David – yes
    - Citrino, Diane (Chair) – yes

Proposal: Barriers to Equal Access to Education in Ohio

- USSCR Staff reported a decision from the Agency's Office of General Counsel that the recusal of Committee member Subodh Chandra from the present discussion is unnecessary at this time. This decision may be reevaluated as necessary after the Committee further narrows its scope and develops more specific details for the proposed study.
- The Committee reviewed a draft project proposal to study civil rights concerns related to barriers to equal access to education in Ohio (attached).
- Note: two committee members, David Tryon and Scott Gerber, submitted comments/amendments to the proposal in advance of the meeting for Committee review (attached).
- Committee members discussed potentially narrowing the scope of the study to focus more in depth on two or three of the issues presented (see bullet points on pages 4-5 of proposal).

*The Chair, Diane Citrino, disconnected from the meeting at 4:58pm due to an unrelated commitment. Vice Chair David Forte facilitated the remainder of the discussion.*

- Subodh Chandra moved to set a new deadline for Committee members to consider proposed revisions and a narrowed scope. Edith Thrower seconded the motion and the motion passed by a roll call vote with a count of 7 yes and 2 abstentions.
  - Chandra, Subodh – yes
  - Gerber, Scott – abstain
  - Hernandez, Emerald – yes
  - Salem, Robert – yes
  - Strang, Lee – abstain
  - Strasser, Mark – yes
  - Thrower, Edith – yes
  - Tryon, David – yes
  - Forte, David (Vice Chair) – yes
  - Citrino, Diane (Chair) – absent
- Additional comments and revisions to the proposal must be received by USSCR staff no later than **5pm Monday March 13, 2017**. Staff will compile all comments into a single document for Committee discussion at the next meeting, TBD.

**Approval of minutes** from January 19, 2017 was tabled until the next Committee meeting for further review.

**Open Comment:** At the conclusion of the meeting public lines were opened for comment; no public comment was received.

**Adjournment:** Subodh Chandra moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:14pm EST; Robert Salem seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice-vote.

**Next Meeting:** TBD; USSCR staff will poll Committee members for their availability for an April 2017 meeting.